

THE MARYLAND WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION  
MINUTES – MAY 17, 2006

Chairman V. Wilson Freeland called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m.

**New Member Introductions**

- Mr. Edwin Fry from Chestertown was recently appointed as the newest member of the Wildlife Advisory Commission.

**Approval for Minutes from March 2006 Meeting**

- The March 2006 Meeting Minutes were adopted without changes.

**2006 WAC Working Agenda Finalized**

- There were no additions to the 2006 WAC Working Agenda.
- Commissioner Adams moved to approve the 2006 WAC Working Agenda. Commissioner Julio seconded the motion. Motion was carried.

**2006 Legislative Session Outcome**

- Presentation given by Paul Peditto, Director and Mark Hoffman, Associate Director.
- Paul Peditto handed out the 2006 Regular Session Profile Information Synopsis [**Attachment A**].
- A few highlights:
  - 1) Deer hunting on private lands on Sundays in Anne Arundel and Montgomery Counties passed. The Department is required to report to the General Assembly regarding the outcome of Sunday Hunting in Montgomery County.
  - 2) The steel jaw leghold trap restriction for Howard County passed.
  - 3) The hunting licenses and stamps exemptions bill passed with some amendments. For landowners, tenants, and their spouses/children and grandchildren the law has been amended to allow grandchildren to hunt for free (in addition to children). However, the exemption for children and grandchildren ONLY applies if you are under 16 years of age. So, unless you are the landowner, tenant, spouse, or under 16 years of age, you will be required to purchase a hunting license for this year.
    - (a) If the bill had passed prior to the amendments, it would have cost WHS over \$124,000 in special fund revenue with no mechanism to replace those funds.
    - (b) To accommodate the bill while avoiding a negative fiscal impact, the sponsors agreed to use this as an opportunity to encourage more youth hunter participation by applying the exemptions to individuals under the age of sixteen.
      - (i) With the new hunting license and stamp requirement exemptions statute, WHS has to amend the Deer Management Permit (DMP) to ensure that adult-hunters who were previous exempt of the license and stamp requirement continue to receive the exemptions.
      - (ii) The issuances of the DMPs have reduced because of the deer bag limits liberalizations.
- **Motions:**
  - 1) Commissioner Fry moved to endorse the change to the DMP Regulations. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion. Motion was carried.
  - 2) Commissioner Julio moved to support the addition of Anne Arundel and Montgomery to the Sunday deer hunting on private lands regulations. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion. Motion was carried.
- **Question:**
  - 1) Commissioner Adams asked what the Department was doing to accommodate the stores that lost business due to the implementation of the new electronic check-in station system.
    - (a) To help address the reduction in foot traffic in these stores, WHS has developed a statewide contest and those stores who participate in the contest would receive free advertisement in the annual Guide to Hunting and Trapping in Maryland.
    - (b) Karina Blizzard is still taking venues application for participation in the statewide contest.

**Break from 10:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.**

**Maryland Farm Bureau Update**

- No Report.

**Natural Resources Police Update**

- Sergeant Glenn Shultz highlighted the Natural Resources Police Update from February 18, 2006 through May 7, 2006 [**Attachment B**].

- NRP has a Reserve Volunteer Officer Program. Sergeant Shultz will provide an update on this at the next WAC meeting.
- The Commission may contact Sergeant Shultz about any case listed by means of e-mail to gshultz@dnr.state.md.us.

#### **Old Business**

- The Commission has received several acceptance letters from volunteers to serve on the Urban Wildlife Subcommittee.
- The Commission is waiting for a response from the Maryland Sportsmen's Association to an invitation to serve on the Urban Wildlife Subcommittee (UWS). Director Peditto will email Steve Christian an invitation to serve on the Urban Wildlife Subcommittee.
- Commissioner Lamp suggested that once the Urban Wildlife Subcommittee has a forum, the subcommittee should consider adding a wildlife rehabilitator as a voting member.
- Chairman Freeland will send an invitation to Mr. Philip Norman, Deer Project Manager for the Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks to serve on the UWS. **[Appendix I]**
- Chairman Freeland asked for a volunteer from the WAC to serve as the chairperson for the Urban Wildlife Subcommittee (as outlined in the Urban Wildlife Subcommittee Guidelines).
  - 1) Chairman Freeland appointed Commissioner Adams to serve as the chairperson for the Urban Wildlife Subcommittee until Commissioner Adams' Wildlife Advisory Commission term expires.
  - 2) Commissioner Adams accepted the appointment until his Wildlife Advisory Commission term ends.
- Commissioner Lamp requested an update on the black bear situation in Western Maryland. Staff expect to finalize the new population estimate prior to the next meeting. An update on the study will be added to the June 21, 2006 WAC Agenda.
- Bob Beyer, Associate Director, reminded the Commission members that the deadline for the Employee, Conservationist, and Farmers of the Year is Friday, May 26, 2006. The nominations were very well done this year and made the selections quite difficult.

#### **New Business**

- No Report.

#### **Public Comment**

- With Chairman Freeland's approval, Director Peditto passed out response letters to constituencies on behalf of the WAC **[Appendix II]**.
- Chairman Freeland requested a copy of the response email to the WAC about the electronic check-in station system. **[Appendix III]**.
- Sergeant Shultz provided a synopsis of the NRP written response to Mr. Hahn **[Appendix IV]**.
- The Commission letter to the Secretary about the Wildlife and Heritage Service's budget was received.
  - 1) Secretary Franks wrote a memorandum, which incorporated the Commission's recommendations regarding WHS's 2007 budget to the Secretary of the Department of Budget and Management.
  - 2) To show that the Commission's letter was recognized, Mark Hoffman, Associate Director, will follow up with the Fiscal Services to find out if the WHS budget section could be provided as a report to the Wildlife Advisory Commission.
  - 3) The Commission had a lengthy discussion about the lack of general funds allocated to the WHS budget. Chairman Freeland deferred discussion to a future meeting.

#### **Adjournment**

- The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 A.M. The next meeting will be held at 9:30 A.M. on Wednesday, June 21, 2006 in the Tawes State Office Building, C-1 Conference Room, in Annapolis, Maryland.

#### **Attendance**

Members:	L. Adams, G. Fratz, W. Freeland, E. Fry, L. Julio, J. Lamp
Guests:	D. Baker III, T. Johnson
Staff:	B. Beyer, K. Blizzard, M. Hoffman, P. Peditto, G. Shultz, T. Spencer
Absent:	C. Garner, R. Brown, R. Pascal,